



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Fighting Cavities One Yogurt Cup at a Time



Dentists recommend we replace our toothbrush every 3 months. While that practice is good for your teeth, it's not so great for the environment. Most toothbrushes are made from plastic, a petroleum product, and end up in landfills or incinerators at the end of their useful lives.

The good news is that a company called "preserve" makes their toothbrush handles from recycled materials (e.g., yogurt cups), and will recycle them after their expiration. They can be purchased locally at Home Eco (4611 Macklind Avenue, 63109), Target, and WholeFoods, or on-line at www.preserveproducts.com. To recycle them, you can mail them back in their original packaging (which doubles as a return mailer) or you can drop them off in one of their "Gimme 5" recycling bins (locally available at WholeFoods, 1601 South Brentwood Boulevard, 63144).

If you have a difficult time remembering when your brush's 3 months are up, you can sign up for their 1-year toothbrush subscription. You won't have to remember when to replace your toothbrush because they'll send you a new one every 3 months.

In addition to toothbrushes, preserve also offers razors, cups, bowls, plates, cutlery, storage containers, colanders, measuring cups, mixing bowls, and cutting boards made from recycled materials.

Reminder - New Website and E-Mail Address

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, the City of St. Louis is in the process of launching a new website. The Recycling Program's new URL will be www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/refuse/recycle. We are adding content to the new site regularly. When a webpage is complete on the new site, we will remove content from the corresponding page on the old site and add a link to the new site. We appreciate any feedback you may have and encourage you to submit comments in the box at the bottom of each page. In addition to the new website, the Recycling Program also has a new e-mail address, recycle@stlouiscity.com. Please direct any RRR related questions, comments, or suggestions to this new address. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for your patience during this transition.



February 2011 Upcoming Events

February 11 - 1pm-4pm

Native Plant School: Native Plant Propagation from Seed.

Details at www.shawnature.org/nativeland/NativePlantSchool.aspx

February 27 - 10am-4pm

Healthy Planet Natural Living Expo.

Details at www.thehealthyplanet.com/feb2011_expo.htm



Facebook Finds



If you have items that you rarely use (e.g., tools, books, DVDs) or if you'd like to see what your Facebook friends might be willing to share with you, check out www.ecosharing.net. The ecoSharing Facebook application facilitates sharing between you and your Facebook friends. Don't want to share with everyone? You can decide who, within your Facebook friends, will be able to view your shared items. Instead of spending money and consuming more resources, this application allows you and your friends to live more sustainably by sharing with each other. Simply log-in to www.ecosharing.net using your Facebook account. Then, choose which of your Facebook friends you would like to share with, and start sharing.

How Can We Help You?

Solve the cryptogram. See page 1 for the answer.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
										B															

B
 N Z K H F V N M T E F J M T M C Z M N V N U T
 J U H R Q L F S V N V U V W M J F V F P M S N
B
 N M T E F J M K Z T M L Z U S Q F S M L V
 I I I N V Q U Z F N H U G U E

Clue: You can also reach them by phone at 314-622-4800 or via Twitter @stlcsb.

Where To Recycle Batteries

If you have a cell phone, digital camera, laptop computer, PDA, power tools, remote controls, electronic toys, etc. you understand the importance of batteries. Batteries give us freedom to use our electronic devices without being tied to an outlet. However, that freedom means we also produce battery waste, which can contain heavy metals such as lead, lithium, mercury, etc.



While non-rechargeable batteries (e.g., standard alkaline AAA, AA, C, D) can be recycled, the cost of recycling them exceeds the value of the materials that are recovered. Therefore, most organizations that collect them charge a fee. However, many places will take rechargeable batteries free-of-charge. Many products, like laptop computers, digital cameras, and cell phones, already use rechargeable batteries. For products that use AAA, AA, C, and D batteries, there are now rechargeable versions that can take the place of over 100 non-rechargeables, reducing your battery consumption and waste, and saving you money in the long run.

For a list of battery RRR options, visit www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/refuse/recycle/batteries.cfm.

A City of St. Louis Refuse Division - Recycling Program Publication Reader Submissions Welcome

Share your waste management-related questions, activities, "how to" tips, calendar items, etc. by e-mailing Blue Bin News at recycle@stlouiscity.com.

To Subscribe, e-mail recycle@stlouiscity.com

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Blue Bin News is distributed in electronic format to conserve natural resources and minimize costs.

Previous issues are archived at

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